

Attorney Docket No. LEAP:109_US_
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/040,566
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2004
Date: October 1, 2004

Current Status of the Claims

1. (original) An apparatus for automatically turning off a source of illumination in a microscope, comprising:
 - a switch operatively arranged to control said illumination source;
 - means for sensing inactivity of said switch and for turning off said illumination source after a predetermined time period of inactivity.
2. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein said switch is a mechanical switch.
3. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said switch is a single pole, single throw switch.
4. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein said means for sensing inactivity of said switch and for turning off said illumination source after a predetermined time period of inactivity comprises a microprocessor.
5. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein said means for sensing inactivity of said switch comprises a digital semiconductor device operatively arranged to sense a logic level at one terminal of said switch.
6. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein said illumination source is an incandescent light bulb.

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7. (original) An apparatus for automatically turning off a power supply in a microscope, comprising:

at least one switch element operatively arranged to control said power supply; and,
means for sensing inactivity of said at least one switch element and for turning off
said power supply after a predetermined time period of inactivity.

8. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 7 further comprising an illumination source
controlled by said means for sensing inactivity of said at least one switch element.

9. (original) A method for automatically turning off a source of illumination in a microscope,
comprising the steps of:

monitoring activity of a switch operatively arranged to control said illumination source;
and,

turning off said illumination source after a predetermined time period of inactivity.

10. (original) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein said step of monitoring activity of a
switch comprises monitoring a logic level at one terminal of said switch, and triggering a
shutdown of said illumination source when a transition in said logic level occurs.

11. (original) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein said step of monitoring is done digitally.